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Interdisciplinary Healthcare in Nicaragua

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Interdisciplinary Healthcare in Nicaragua

Description

This annual project, a partnership with the Jessie F. Richardson Foundation (JFR), sends students and faculty from the College of Health Professions to provide essential health services and health education to La Providencia Hogar and the surrounding community in Granada, Nicaragua. The hogar houses some of Nicaragua's poorest elders who are often abandoned by their adult children who leave the country in search of employment or to fend for their immediate families. Charitable faith-based organizations support these elders having established twenty hogars throughout the country. The University partners with Nicaraguan gerontologist Dr. Milton Lopez to establish La Providencia Hogar as a "model rehabilitative and health center", with future plans for expansion of services to another hogar, as well as for significant increases in continuing education and training for providers who care for elders.

In the first year of the program, 2007, the CHP sent students and faculty from three of the College's six professional programs – occupational therapy, physical therapy, and dental health science – to this site to work inter-professionally to improve the health and safety of the residents. In the second year, the College's School of Pharmacy joined the program. Future plans call for involvement of the remaining Schools of Psychology, Physician Assistant Studies and the University's College of Optometry.

Disciplines

Medicine and Health Sciences | Other Medicine and Health Sciences

Comments

For additional information, please visit the website created by Tiffany Boggis (School of Occupational Therapy): <http://www.pacificu.edu/chp/international/nicaragua/>

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Trip Photos



Second-year Dental Health Science student, Wilber Ramirez-Rodriguez, performing a dental examination on a resident of *La Providencia* with supervision and assistance from a Dental Health Science professor.



Physical Therapy student, Chelesa Albrecht, dancing with a resident while assessing his gross motor abilities, including strength, range of motion, balance and gait.



Third-year Dental Health Science student, Jennifer Jenkinson, performing a dental examination and cleaning on a *La Providencia* resident.



Chelesa Albrecht facilitating lower extremity movement with residents during exercise group designed collaboratively by Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy students.



Third-year Occupational Therapy student Sara Poppleton assisting an elder with a leisure yarn project to promote self-esteem and mental well-being.



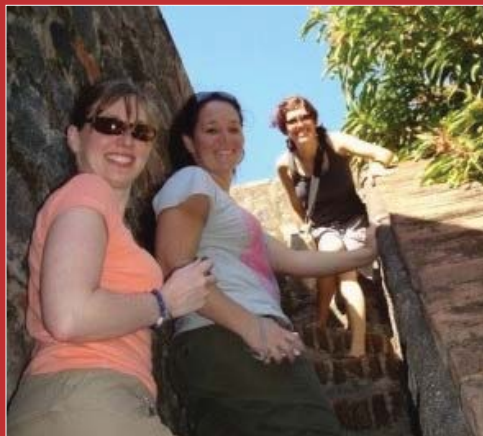
Carly Messner, facilitating craft activity with resident where she was able to observe the resident's cognitive and fine motor abilities, as well as level of social engagement.



Student leaders, supervisors, and local gerontologist, Dr. Milton Lopez, standing in front of the Granada Hospital with the Hospital Director following a tour of the facilities.



Dental student Wilbur Ramirez-Rodriguez exploring the local market and culture in Granada.



Dental Health Science student Kristen Thomas and Occupational Therapy students Sara Poppleton and Angie Freyer explore a historical fort near Lake Nicaragua..



Student leaders and supervisors on a boat trip to explore the culture of the Granada Islands on Lake Nicaragua.



Occupational Therapy student leaders Carley Messner and Jennifer Pidkowicz facilitating a leisure activity for elders while the team leader and a local physical therapist observe and discuss the importance of leisure activity for the health and well-being of elders.



Third year Occupational Therapy student, Rose Peets, facilitating craft activity with resident where she was able to observe residents cognitive and fine motor abilities, as well as level of social engagement.



A resident engaging in a piñata activity during the New Year's Day fiesta. Her functional abilities utilizing balance, strength and range of motion could easily be observed.



Angela Freyer, third-year Master of Occupational Therapy student, building rapport and interviewing two residents about their life history and experiences living at *La Providencia* and learning about aging in Nicaragua.



Second-year Dental Health Science student, Kristen Thomas, inviting a resident to dance during New Year's Day fiesta.



Third-year Occupational Therapy student, Jennifer Pidkowitz, interviewing resident about his life story and experiences aging in Nicaragua.



Wilber Ramirez-Rodriguez and Angela Freyer sharing cake during the New Year's fiesta, while interviewing a resident about her experiences in Nicaragua.